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The Year's Outlook.

The past has been a great year. Great peace messages have been declared. A great temple of justice has been reared to the concord of humanity. Great expectations have been evoked among the people of all lands. Statesmen have declared that the withering blight of militarism cannot much longer be endured, and numberless proposals have been made looking to practical solutions of this question of questions.

What shall be done? What shall the coming year bring forth? Everybody is inquiring—anxiously and feverishly inquiring—most of all the multitudes of men and women of the heavily-burdened laboring classes.

If only two things could be accomplished within the year, there is reason to believe that the great task

would be well on the way to practical completion. These two things are: First, a "naval holiday" for a year, as suggested by Lord Winston Churchill, for Great Britain and Germany; and, second, a permanent arrest of the growth of the American navy.

The "naval holiday" for a year ought easily to be brought about for all the important naval powers, notwithstanding the apparent determination of Germany not to listen to such a friendly challenge. The extraordinary vote of Congress on the Hensley resolution, on December 8, is a striking revelation of the feeling of the people of our time on the subject. If a friendly Commission of Congress were to be created to send to the Parliaments of the important powers of Europe to lay the subject before them, it seems almost certain that these powers would hasten to avail themselves of the opportunity to escape from their present ruinous and perilous situation. If such a "naval holiday" should thus be created for a single year, in co-operation with the important nations of the world, one can hardly imagine that these powers could ever again return to the increase of their already gigantic naval burdens. It ought to be tried.

The permanent arrest of the increase of the American navy is already all but accomplished. For two years, only a single new warship annually—just enough to replace a worn-out one—has been ordered by Congress. If the present Congress will, as seems certain, refuse to provide for two new Dreadnaughts, as just recommended by the Secretary of the Navy, naval increase will almost certainly be at an end. Such an example on the part of the United States would quickly be followed by other powers, and within a few years increase of naval armaments would cease. The powerful trend of the world is in that direction.

The year 1914 ought also to see accomplished the repeal of the law exempting American coastwise ships from the payment of tolls in the Panama Canal. This great international waterway should be in all respects open on equal terms to the ships of all nations, and no fortifications should be allowed to impede free passage.